

**Request for Proposal: Humane Housing (Youth Focus)**  
**Buhl Regional Health Foundation**  
**Release Date: January 6, 2026**

## **OVERVIEW**

The Buhl Regional Health Foundation (BRHF) invites proposals from nonprofit organizations serving Mercer County to support initiatives that strengthen Humane Housing for children, youth, and their families. Humane Housing is one of the seven Vital Conditions for a Thriving Community Framework now guiding BRHF's funding strategy. This is a foundational factor influencing long-term well-being.

In Mercer County, access to safe, stable, and dignified housing remains a critical determinant of physical, emotional, and mental health. Youth who experience housing instability or unsafe living conditions face significant barriers to healthy development, educational success, and long-term thriving.

Through this RFP, BRHF seeks programs that prevent housing instability, improve living conditions, promote family stability, and ensure that all young people have access to safe environments where they can grow, learn, and thrive. Projects may focus on prevention, early intervention, housing-related support, or innovative community partnerships that strengthen long-term stability for youth and families.

## **FUNDING PRIORITIES**

Proposals should clearly address one or more of the following priority areas and reflect the principle that Humane Housing is a vital community condition essential for child well-being:

- 1. Programs that prevent youth homelessness or housing displacement**
  1. Transitional housing support for youth or youth-led households
  2. Family stabilization programs that keep children safely housed
  3. Efforts that reduce unsafe or unstable living situations
- 2. Improving Housing Conditions**
  - Program that addresses critical home repairs that allow youth to remain safely housed
  - Program that addresses environmental hazards (mold, air quality, utilities issues)
  - Partnerships offering safe, temporary placements for youth in crisis
- 3. Housing Navigation & Supportive Services**
  - Case management, advocacy, and navigation for families facing housing challenges
  - Coordinated care approaches that reduce system barriers
  - Programs connecting families to long-term housing solutions

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- Public or community-based organizations partnering with nonprofits
- All applicants must serve children and youth in Mercer County

## **PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must submit:

1. Description of the project and the youth population serviced
2. The specific housing-related need to be addressed
3. Expected outcomes and how youth will benefit
4. Project budget and timeline
5. Partnerships and existing support, if applicable

## **FUNDING DETAILS**

- Grant amounts will vary based on scope and anticipated impact
- Projects may be new or expansions of existing programs
- Funding period begins June 2026

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

BRHF will prioritize proposals that demonstrate:

- Clear and direct benefit to youth
- Measurable outcomes and strong community impact
- Collaboration with local systems and partners
- Sustainability beyond BRHF funding

## **UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES**

Funding cannot be used for the following:

- Emergency or crisis rent/mortgage payments for individual households
- Direct financial assistance to individuals or families (e.g., vouchers, stipends, utility assistance)
- Purchase of land or property
- Routine housing maintenance not tied to a youth-focused housing intervention (e.g., lawn care, snow removal, general cleaning)
- Furniture, appliances, or household goods for individual families unless part of an approved programmatic intervention
- Purchase of vehicles
- Lobbying, political activities, or fundraising events
- Staff bonuses, gift cards, or incentives unrelated to program participation
- Medical or clinical services outside the project scope

- Costs incurred before the official grant award date
- Activities that do not directly support Humane Housing outcomes for youth in Mercer County
- Additional expenses at BRHF discretion

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

**All submissions must be made through the BRHF Grant Portal.**

**Step 1: Submit Letter of Interest (LOI) - Only one RFP LOI submission per organization will be accepted.**

**Step 2: BRHF reviews LOIs and issues invitations for full proposals**

**Step 3: Invited applicants submit detailed proposals including:**

- Most recent IRS Form 990
- Project budget and funding plan
- Description of initiative, timeline, and expected outcomes
- Optional attachments (not scored)

## **REVIEW CRITERIA**

**Proposals will be evaluated on:**

- Creativity and innovation
- Strength of impact on housing-related well-being
- Collaboration across systems and partners
- Clear, actionable implementation steps
- Measurable outcomes and sustainability

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**Awarded organizations must submit interim and final reports according to the schedule set by the BRHF Director of Grantmaking.**

## RFP TIMELINE

**RFP Cycle Opens January 6, 2026**

**LOI Deadline** February 13, 2026

Invitations for Detailed Proposals April 24, 2026

**Detailed Proposal Deadline** **April 24, 2026**

**Award Announcements**      **June 3, 2026**

**Funds Released**

## QUESTIONS

**BRHF staff are available to assist applicants throughout the process.**

**Kimberly Porsch | Director of Grantmaking**  
*kimberly@buhlrhf.org*

Ashley Mausser | Executive Team Assistant  
[ashley@buhlrhf.org](mailto:ashley@buhlrhf.org)